



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Dry weather allowed farmers to plant crops

The dry weather during the spring allowed farmers in Maryland and Delaware to plant crops. Sporadic rainfall during the spring help the development of crops but more rain is needed. According to the “Acreage Report” released on June 29th by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, farmers have increased corn acreage in nearly all states while soybean acreage has declined. This report encompasses a survey that was conducted and based on June 1 conditions throughout the Nation.

Maryland: Maryland farmers are expected to plant 540,000 acres of corn in 2007, up 10 percent from 490,000 acres planted in 2006. They expect to harvest 470,000 acres for grain, with the remained harvested for silage or other uses. Soybean acreage is expected to drop 9 percent to 430,000 acres. Farmers also report that they will harvest 175,000 acres of winter wheat and 34,000 acres of barley, in 2007. Growers report that they will harvest 40,000 acres of alfalfa and 170,000 acres of other types of hay.

Delaware: Delaware farmers indicate that they have planted 185,000 acres of corn this spring, up 9 percent from 170,000 acres of corn planted in 2006. A total of 175,000 acres are expected to be harvest for grain with remaining acres harvest for silage or other uses. Farmers indicate that they will also plant 160,000 acres of soybeans. Farmers expect to harvest 55,000 acres of winter wheat and 20,000 acres of barley in the upcoming weeks. Hay will be cut from an estimated 15,000 acres, compared to 14,000 acres in 2006.

United States: Corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 92.9 million acres in 2007, up 19 percent from 2006 and 14 percent higher than 2005. Farmers increased corn plantings 3 percent from their March intentions, resulting in the highest planted area since 1944 when 95.5 million acres were planted for all purposes. Wet conditions during March and April delayed field preparations and planting activities in the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Conditions dried out considerably in the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley during May allowing producers to make good planting progress, but the lack of precipitation reduced topsoil moisture and increased stress on the crop. Meanwhile, excessive rainfall in parts of the western Corn Belt, central and southern Great Plains, and middle Mississippi Valley during much of May continued to hamper fieldwork. Despite the weather related delays, growers made rapid progress and planting was completed ahead of the average pace. Farmers reported that 99 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview which is slightly above the average for the past 10 years.

The 2007 soybean planted area is estimated at 64.1 million acres, down 15 percent from last year's record high. Area for harvest, at 63.3 million acres, is also down 15 percent from 2006. This is the lowest planted and harvested area for soybeans since 1995. With the exception of New York, Pennsylvania, and the Southeast States, planted acreage decreased in all States across the country. Growers in Illinois and Iowa showed the largest decrease in soybean acreage from last year, down 1.75 million acres and 1.35 million acres, respectively. Large declines in soybean area occurred across the Corn Belt and Great Plains, with planted acreage also down more than one million acres from last year in Indiana, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Many farmers across the country shifted to planting more corn this year at the expense of soybeans. However, increases in soybean area occurred across the Southeast, where some farmers shifted from cotton to corn and soybeans. New York and Pennsylvania both set new record high planted areas, at 215,000 and 440,000 acres, respectively. Nationally, farmers reported that 88 percent of the intended soybean acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview, compared with the average of 81 percent for the past 5 years.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2006 AND 2007

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Maryland		1,000 Acres						1,000	
Corn ¹	ACR	490	540	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	425	470	142	----	60,350	----
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	60	----	17	----	1,020	----
Soybeans	BU	470	430	465	420	34	----	15,810	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	210	225	125	175	68	66	8,500	11,550
Barley	BU	50	45	32	34	87	----	2,784	----
Hay, All	TON	----	----	205	210	2.78	----	569	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	40	40	3.90	----	156	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	165	170	2.50	----	413	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	38,000	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	3.8	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	4.0	4.0	2.9	3.9	320	----	928	----
Delaware									
Corn ¹	ACR	170	185	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	161	175	145	----	23,345	----
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	8	----	20	----	160	----
Soybeans	BU	180	160	177	155	31	----	5,487	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	48	57	45	55	67	68	3,015	4,556
Barley	BU	27	23	24	20	80	----	1,920	----
Hay, All	TON	----	----	14	15	2.86	----	40	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	5	5	3.90	----	20	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	9	10	2.20	----	20	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.0	3.3	2.1	3.2	240	----	504	----
United States								1,000,000	
Corn ¹	ACR	78,327	92,888	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	70,648	85,418	149	----	10,535	----
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	6,477	----	16	----	105	----
Soybeans	BU	75,522	64,081	74,602	63,285	43	----	3,188	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	40,575	45,136	31,117	37,588	42	----	1,298	----
Barley	BU	3,452	4,044	2,951	3,542	61	----	180	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	60,807	61,789	2.33	----	142	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	21,384	21,451	3.35	----	72	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	39,423	40,338	1.78	----	70	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,843	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.06	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	58.4	56.3	54.3	54.3	338	----	18.4	----

¹ Acres planted for all purposes.